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classes in the numbers that go insane is found to be true. Another unexpected fact is that 59.6 per cent. of the insanity in the Clarinda institution during a decade occurred among persons living in towns and cities and engaged in commercial and urban pursuits.

That part of Professor Herriott's paper which deals with the physical condition of the insane, causes of insanity and of death of the insane, is not likely to meet with the unqualified approval of the alienists; for these gentlemen are far from agreeing among themselves. A satisfactory statistical treatment of these matters is exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, at the present time. But that should not deter one from attempts like Professor Herriott's. They at least help to pave the way for larger excursions into this difficult field.

JOHN KOREN.

A CITY FACTORY DISTRICT.

South End Factory Operatives: Employment and Residence. A monograph by Roswell F. Phelps, A.M. Published by the South End House Association, 20 Union Park, Boston.

This monograph is the result of an exhaustive investigation carried on by Mr. Phelps during a two years' residence in the South End House Settlement as a holder of the South End House Fellowship maintained by graduates of Harvard University living in Boston.

The field covered by this investigation is comparatively narrow, and the figures dealt with small; but, while this would naturally tend to detract from the reliability of averages and general inferences, it has had the compensating advantage of admitting of great accuracy in the data secured and of a searching and vital analysis of the results attained. The writer in his intercourse with the employers and employees of the district has learned much more than could possibly be conveyed by the statistics which he has thus been enabled to gather. The results of this close personal contact appear in the explanatory text, which gives evidence of a sympathetic understanding of social conditions often so utterly lacking in official statistical work.

The South End Factory district is a small area of made land in Ward IX., bordering on what is known as the South Bay. The writer gives a brief historical sketch of this section of Boston, and describes the various phases of its physical, social, and economic development and present condition. In this district are located 118 factories of various kinds, employing approximately 2,000 hands. It is these

2,000 laborers, or rather 1,102 of them whose addresses he was able to secure, that Mr. Phelps has made the special subject of his investigation. He ascertained by most careful inquiry the place of residence and the wages of all of these persons, visited many of them in their homes, and found out by consulting the assessors' books the amount and character of the property owned by a large number of them. From these and other data he has prepared maps and tables showing groupings of residences as regards distance from the factories. He found that the more poorly paid operatives, as a rule lived within walking distance of the factories, that the more skilful and intelligent were able to take advantage of street-car facilities, and enjoy the better and more healthful residences available in the suburbs or remoter parts of the city. He made a special study of the transit problem by steam as well as electric cars, and sets forth the advantage that the elevated road, then just completed, affords this class of people.

As a result of this study, he concludes that all influences and opportunities which tend toward decentralization make for the best interest of this class of people. Philanthropy which builds sanitary and attractive tenement houses in congested districts is of doubtful expediency; but all efforts in the direction of overcoming "residential inertia" by affording cheap transportation and attractive suburban homes are, for Boston at least, steps in the right direction for the ultimate solution of a proper housing for the working class.

Whether we agree with Mr. Phelps in his conclusions or not, we cannot fail to recognize the merit of the contribution in the form of accurate and well-arranged data which he has made to the study of practical sociology.

C. W. DOTEN.